

REMARKS

Claims 17-23 and 35-38 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

SPECIFICATION

The specification stands objected to for certain informalities. Specifically, the Examiner objects to the cross-reference to parent application number 09/871,600 because the status of the parent application is not stated. Applicants have amended the specification to state that the parent application which the present application claims priority to issued as U.S. Pat. No. 6,979,374. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102/103

Claims 17-23 and 35-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of, Hamano (JP 11-288807). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 17 and 19 have been amended and rewritten. Claims 17 and 19 now recited a bonded magnet comprising a magnetic powder having an average particle size in the range of 1 to 50 microns. The magnetic powder is composed of a R-TM-B based alloy having at least one element selected from Ti, Cr, Nb, Mo, Hf, W, Mn, Zr, and Dy (where R is at least one rare earth element selected from the group consisting of Nd and Pr, a ratio of Pr with respect to a total mass of R is in the range of 20% to 60%, and

TM is a transition metal mainly containing Fe). Lastly, Claims 17 and 19 had been amended to recite that the intrinsic coercive force H_{CJ} of the bonded magnet at a room temperature is in the range of 430 – 750 kA/m. This subject matter is described at, for example, page 12 of the present application. The claimed particle size of 1 to 50 microns is disclosed, for example, on page 22 of the present application. Hamano does not teach or suggest such a bonded magnet. That is, Hamano fails to teach where R is at least rare earth element selected from the group consisting of Nb and Pr, and a ratio of Pr with respect to a total mass of R is in the range of 20% to 60%. Because this subject matter is neither taught nor suggested by Hamano, Applicants respectfully assert that the claimed invention is neither anticipated nor obvious in view of Hamano.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 17-23 and 35 to 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Panchanathan (U.S. Pat. No. 5,725,792) or Mohri (U.S. Pat. No. 4,765,848). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As stated above, Claims 17 and 19 have been amended and rewritten. Both Panchanathan and Mohri fail to teach or suggest the subject matter of Claims 17 and 19. More specifically, both Panchanathan and Mohri fail to teach or suggest an alloy that includes R which is selected from the group consisting of Nb and Pr, and a ratio of Pr with respect to a total mass of R is in the range of 20% to 60%. Because this subject matter is neither taught nor suggested by either Panchanathan or Mohri, Applicants

respectfully assert that the claimed bonded magnets would not have been obvious in view of either Panchanathan or Mohri.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

DOUBLE PATENTING

Claims 17-23 and 35-38 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being double patentable over Claims 17-22 and 34-36 of co-pending application number 10/719,250. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

To overcome the double patenting rejection, Applicants elect to file a terminal disclaimer, enclosed herewith. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 17-23 and 35-38 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatenable over Claims 12-18 of U.S. Patent No. 6,627,102. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

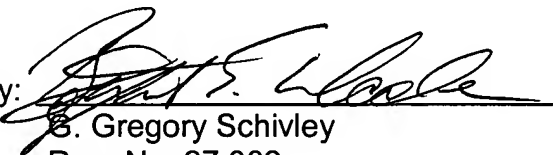
Applicants elect to file a terminal disclaimer, enclosed herewith, to overcome the double patenting rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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